

**SB253**  
**Effective May 13, 2014**  
**Amendments to Section 41-6a-1716**

**Handheld Wireless Communication Device:**

- Wireless telephone
- Text messaging device
- Laptop
- Any other similar device that is readily removable from the vehicle and is used to write, send, read text, or data through manual input (e.g., netbook, tablet, etc.)

**Prohibited Activities While Operating a Moving Vehicle on a Highway:**

- Write, read or send a written message (email, texting, instant messaging)
- Dial a phone number
- Access the internet
- View or record a video
- Enter data into the device

Operating means driving or in actual physical control of vehicle

Highway means entire width of street or road that is open to the public for vehicle traffic

Prohibitions apply when vehicle is moving

Prohibitions apply when activity is done manually (e.g., using fingers)

**Exceptions**

- Using handheld communication device for voice communication
- To view a GPS device or navigation app
- During a medical emergency
- Reporting a safety hazard or requesting assistance relating to safety hazard
- Reporting criminal activity or requesting assistance relating to criminal activity
- Use by law enforcement or emergency service personnel within the scope of their employment
- Using a hands-free or voice operated technology or a system integrated into the vehicle

**Penalty**

- Class C Misdemeanor and \$100 fine
- Class B Misdemeanor if violation of the section causes serious bodily injury to another or pervious violation (or conviction of the violation) within past three years